



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

GUEST EDITORIAL

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New school year continues commitment to Wisconsin's future

By State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster

MADISON—As our schools start once again, educators, students, and parents throughout Wisconsin welcome a new school year with renewed energy and enthusiasm. Students return ready to attain their aspirations and for new challenges; parents look forward to seeing their children learn and achieve; and teachers focus on improving student achievement and building the capacity of every child to learn and grow. The start of the school year is a time to renew our commitment to public education and to the opportunity for new beginnings.

There is joy for all of us as parents, educators, and citizens, in knowing we can make a difference in someone's life, and in helping young people understand that what lies behind them and what lies before them are tiny matters compared to what lies within them.

We want our students and children to have the knowledge and skills they need to be productive citizens of our global society. At the same time, we realize that an education system isn't worth a great deal if it teaches young people how to make a living, but doesn't teach them how to live. In educating our next generation, we believe an educated citizenry will perpetuate our democracy.

Public education in Wisconsin is moving forward. Student achievement is rising, supported by our early learning and class-size reduction programs. Citizenship and service-learning is expanding at all levels in our schools. Already recognized for our national leadership in international education, we are expanding relationships and learning opportunities for Wisconsin students and educators in Germany, Japan, France, and Thailand. Global literacy, beginning with an understanding of cultural differences within our Wisconsin communities, is expanding the depth and breadth of experiences and knowledge in the classroom. And, our statewide High School Task Force is working to ensure high school students

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graduate with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in postsecondary education, the workplace, and as citizens of our 21st century global society.

We are moving forward united on our educational mission: the New Wisconsin Promise to ensure a quality education for all our children by raising the achievement of all students, and closing the achievement gap between economically disadvantaged students, students of color, and their peers.

Investing in education, pre-Kindergarten through university, is the best investment we can make to promote economic development and to ensure the long-term economic security of our state. It is our on-going, sustained efforts over time as students, educators, parents, community volunteers, and citizens that make a difference for Wisconsin's future.

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Elizabeth Burmaster is the elected state superintendent of public instruction.

NOTE: To download a high resolution photo of the state superintendent, visit the Department of Public Instruction "Media Contacts and Resources" webpage at < <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/sprntdnt/media.html> >.